FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 NOVEMBER 1985

Iran-Iraq War

An Iraqi military spokesman cited by Voice of the Masses radio announced that Iraqi planes raided Khark Island and hit another large maritime target near the Iranian coast 18 November. Iraqi air defenses downed an Iranian F-5 during an unsuccessful Iranian air attack on "civilian" areas in Maysan, the spokesman asserted. In earlier action, Iranian communiques reported by IRNA announced Iranian air strikes on Iraqi industrial and military targets near Al-Sulaymaniyah 15 and 17 November, though Iraqi communiques broadcast by the Voice of the Masses maintained that both attacks were thwarted by Iraqi antiaircraft fire. The Iraqi communiques also mentioned other Iraqi air attacks on Khark Island and maritime targets over the weekend, and *GULF DAILY NEWS* disclosed that a Maltese-registered oil tanker was twice hit by Iraqi missiles 16 November. Although the fully-laden tanker caught fire, the crew was later able to return and direct the vessel to Sirri Island, the Manama paper added.

Tehran radio broadcast an appeal by the Revolution Guards Corps for Iranians to "rush to the assistance" of the combatants at the battlefronts.

Gulf Affairs

A "senior Gulf source" cited by *AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM* revealed that the GCC has agreed on the "method of formally restoring" ties with Egypt and that the decision will be conveyed to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak during his visit to Muscat for the Omani national day celebrations. As for Gulf relations with the USSR, UAE Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid declared that the creation of UAE-USSR diplomatic ties affirms his country's nonaligned stands and neutral policy, Abu Dhabi radio reported. An *AL-KHALIJ* editorial called on the rest of the GCC to adopt the same decision and noted the importance of the move's timing — 3 days before the U.S.-USSR summit. While Bahraini and Kuwaiti papers cited by WAKH praised the new ties, a Tehran radio commentary asserted that the United States was "part of the decision," adding that the Soviet presence in the region will only be "formal, marginal, and official" because of U.S. influence.

Syria's Relations With Iran, Jordan

President Hafiz al-Asad received Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati 17 November, SANA reported, adding that Velayati delivered a message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i. Velayati stressed Iran's determination to fight a "defensive" war with Iraq until the fall of President Saddam Husayn's regime, IRNA disclosed, while Al-Asad assured Velayati that there is no ground for reconciliation between Syria and Iraq. Earlier, in a Friday sermon broadcast by Tehran radio's Arabic service, Iranian Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani indirectly criticized Syria's policy toward Jordan and Lebanon without mentioning Syria by name. He warned that King Husayn and Arab "reactionaries" are pressuring "resisting" Arab governments into seeking rapprochement with Jordan and that another "plot" is under way in Lebanon aimed at preventing the establishment of a government of the Muslim majority.

Meanwhile, the Beirut paper *AL-SAFIR* reported that within the framework of the rapprochement with Syria, the Jordanian authorities have arrested several hundred Muslim Brotherhood members, according to Radio Monte Carlo. The radio also cited Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's statement to the Lebanese paper *AL-BAYRAQ* that the rapprochement with Jordan clearly means that the Jordanian-PLO accord is "dead," though this remark was not mentioned in Damascus television and SANA reports on Khaddam's *AL-BAYRAQ* interview.

PLO

During their 16 November talks in Amman, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Jordan's King Husayn stressed the continuation of cooperation on the basis of the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported. Amman television confirmed that they discussed continuation of the Jordanian-Palestinian joint move. 'Arafat's arrival in Baghdad the following day was reported by INA, and MENA cited an *AL-AHRAM* report that he will chair an emergency session of the PLO leadership in Baghdad beginning 20 November.

Hostages in Lebanon

The archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy Terry Waite announced before leaving Beirut 17 November that he held "lengthy contacts" with the kidnappers of the four U.S. hostages during his stay in Lebanon, Beirut radio reported. Progress was made, Waite said, but the situation remains difficult. In another development, the radio noted that an organization calling itself the "Organization of the Underprivileged on Earth" claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of four Lebanese Jews earlier this year and offered to release them in exchange for some 300 prisoners held in Al-Khiyam, a town in the southern border strip.

Israel

Prime Minister Shim'on Peres appealed to U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to discuss the emigration of Soviet Jews at the summit meeting. In his opening remarks to the weekly Cabinet meeting carried by IDF radio, Peres voiced Israeli agreement with the Soviet "criticism" of emigre "drop-outs" — SovietJews with visas for Israel who go elsewhere — and reiterated Israeli willingness to allow direct flights from the USSR.

Egypt

The four Libyans arrested in the "recently uncovered Libyan plot" revealed in their confessions "the dimensions of Libya's terrorist plans" in several European and African countries, MENA reported, noting that Interior Minister Ahmad Rushdi briefed the ambassadors of the concerned countries on all the available information.

Libya

Foreign Liaison Secretary 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki told the Abu Dhabi daily *AL-ITTIHAD* that Algeria has "officially informed" Libya that it is not involved in U.S. efforts "to undermine" the Libyan regime, adding that the two countries' contacts will "witness a strong drive forward in the next few days." In a domestic development, the "revolutionary force" burned the real estate records in Tripoli "to consolidate and radicalise" the Jamahiriyah society, JANA reported.

Inter-Arab Affairs

The Arab reconciliation committee set up by the Casablanca Arab summit decided in its 14-16 November meeting in Rabat to send delegations to Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Rabat radio reported. Although Mauritanian President Maayouia Sidi Ahmed Ould Taya asserted in remarks cited by Nouakchott radio that the committee achieved "tangible progress," Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan expressed "doubts" about the results of the meeting in a statement broadcast by Rabat radio.

Afghan-Iranian Relations

The Afghan Government officially protested Iran's "aggressive attacks" on border posts in a statement reported by Kabul radio. The statement noted Iran's use of helicopters in a 9 November operation.

FBIS DAILY REPORT
CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 222 *18 November 1985*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Keshtmand Visits Herat, Meets With Officials ..... C 1
Iranian Border Incidents 'Strongly' Protested ..... C 1
BAKHTAR on Successes Against Counterrevolutionaries ..... C 2
Clandestine Reports Coup Attempt Against Karmal *[Voice of the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan]* ..... C 2

INDIA

Gandhi Denies Providing Arms to Tamil Militants ..... E 1
Indonesia's Suharto Meets Gandhi, Leaves for Home ..... E 1
Gandhi Leaves for Oman National Day Celebrations ..... E 1
'Arafat To Meet With Gandhi in New Delhi 18 Nov ..... E 1
Pakistani Finance Minister Meets With Officials ..... E 1
Trade Agreement Reached *[AFP]* ..... E 1
Haq 'Satisfied' With Talks ..... E 1
Bangladesh Minister on Water Sharing Issue ..... E 2
Vice President Returns From East European Visit ..... E 2
Assam Accord Bill Introduced in Lok Sabha ..... E 2
Enriched Uranium Deposits Found in Karnataka ..... E 2
HINDUSTAN TIMES on Relationship With Bangladesh *[7 Nov]* ..... E 2

PAKISTAN

Further Reportage on Visit of Turkish President ..... F 1
Evren Urges Islamic Unity *[Ankara]* ..... F 1
Leaves for Oman ..... F 1
Press Release Issued *[Ankara]* ..... F 1
Joint Statement Issued ..... F 2
Ziaul Haq Speaks With Turkish Journalists *[Ankara]* ..... F 3
Comments on Evren Visit ..... F 3
Ziaul Haq Departs for Oman Coronation Anniversary ..... F 3
Acting Officials Named ..... F 3
Junejo Meets Sri Lankan Trade Minister 14 Nov ..... F 3
Junejo Departs for Beijing 17 Nov; Hails PRC Ties ..... F 3
XINHUA Interview Cited ..... F 4
Indian 'Propaganda' on Nuclear Capability Viewed *[NAWA-E WAQT 8 Nov]* ..... F 4
HAIDAR Urges Direct Talks With Afghanistan *[4 Nov]* ..... F 4

OTHER COUNTRIES

BANGLADESH

Trade Talks With Bulgaria Begin 16 Nov ..... D 1
Bomb Kills 1, Wounds 2 on Outskirts of Dhaka *[AFP]* ..... D 1

NEPAL

Foreign Minister Leaves for Muscat Celebrations ..... D 1

SRI LANKA

Security Minister, India's Gandhi To Meet in Oman *[AFP]* ..... D 1
Jayewardene, Gandhi Meeting Unlikely *[AFP]* ..... D 1
Government Presents Budget, Urges Peace Talks *[AFP]* ..... D 2
'Marxist Terrorists' Rob Minister's Home 15 Nov ..... D 2
4 Policemen Killed, 2 Injured in Landmine Blast ..... D 3
Clash Ensues, 9 Killed *[AFP]* ..... D 3
Tamils Say Government Forces Killed 77 Civilians *[AFP]* ..... D 3
Charges Denied *[AFP]* ..... D 3

IRAN

Khomeyni Receives Basij Volunteer Forces at Qom ..... I 1
Clandestine on Soviet Envoy's Meeting With Khomeyni *[Voice of the Liberation of Iran]* ..... I 1
Musavi Says Summit Against Third World Interests ..... I 1
Musavi Interviewed on Budget, Geneva Summit ..... I 1
Musavi Issues Circular on Karbala Convoys ..... I 2
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Gives Friday Prayers Sermon ..... I 2
Further on Friday Prayers ..... I 2
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets With Australian Envoy ..... I 3
Velayati Departs for Tour of Syria, Libya, Algeria ..... I 3
Pre-Departure Statement ..... I 3
Interviewed at Airport ..... I 4
Further on Visit *[cross-reference]* ..... I 4
Oil Minister Inspects Ahvaz Installations ..... I 4
Talks on Sudanese POW's in Iran Open ..... I 5
Majlis Delegation Departs for Nicaragua ..... I 5
Delegate Leaves for OPEC Fund Talks in Vienna ..... I 5
Lebanese Shi'ite Leader Comments on Damascus Talks ..... I 5
Lebanon's Fadlallah Urges Anti-Zionist Union ..... I 6
Joint Staff Command Issues Battle Communiques ..... I 6
No. 2290 ..... I 6
No. 2291 ..... I 6
No. 2292 ..... I 7
Attacks on Iraqi Residential Areas Denied ..... I 7
IRGC Urges Citizens To Assist Combatants ..... I 7
Clandestine Reports Preparations for Offensive *[Voice of the Liberation of Iran]* ..... I 7
Maltese Tanker Hit by Missile in Gulf *[AFP]* ..... I 8
German, Japanese Ships Detained in Persian Gulf ..... I 8
German Ship Held ..... I 8
Japanese Ship Released ..... I 8
Voice of Liberation Reports Cholera Outbreak ..... I 8
Soviet Aircraft Reportedly Bomb DRA Village ..... I 8
120 Soviet Troops Killed in Failed Operation ..... I 8
Rebel, Soviet-Karmal Forces Clash in Nimruz ..... I 8

Keshtmand Visits Herat, Meets With Officials
LD152256 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 14 Nov 85

[Excerpts]Soltan Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan] Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, this morning visited Herat City where he participated in a meeting of workers and employees of Herat textile mill and a large number of the toiling inhabitants of Herat Province. The chairman of the Council of Ministers, accompanied by Mir Saheb Karwal, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and a number of members of the Council of Ministers was welcomed at Herat Airport by Major General Nabi 'Azemi, deputy minister of defense; Emtiyaz Hassan, secretary of the Provincial Party Committee; Brigadier General Qader Meyakhel, head of the Northwest Zone; and the governor and commanders of the armed forces of Herat Province. A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that Soltan Ali Keshtmand and the accompanying delegation, after visiting Herat textile mill, took part in a meeting at the Northwest Zone headquarters. [as heard]

At the begining of the meeting, Deputy Defense Minister Maj Gen Nabi 'Azemi presented a comprehensive report on the work and struggles of the officers and men of the Armed Forces, revolutionary guards and party activists in crushing the counter-revolutionary bands who were disrupting the peaceful life of the toiling people of Herat City. He gave an assurance to the chairman of the Council of Ministers on the restoration of security and the necessary measures required in this respect.

The head of the Northwest Zone then presented a series of proposals to the session about the nature of the situation in the Northwest Zone, and the further improvement of the situation in the zone's provinces, particularly in Herat Province.

In conclusion, Soltan Ali Keshtmand positivley assessed the work of the meeting and gave specific duties to the members of the Northwest Zone headquarters.

The chairman of the Council of Ministers and his accompanying delegation then visited the historic grand mosque of Herat, which recently received damage as a result of rocket fire by counter-revolutionaries. Soltan Ali Keshtmand gave the necessary instructions to the head of the zone concerning the immediate repair of the damaged mosque.

At the end of his visit Soltan Ali Keshtmand presented gifts to the custodians, preachers and clergy of Herat grand mosque.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports from Herat City that the chairman of the Council of Ministers and his accompanying delegation met today with the personnel of the 17th Infantry Division of Herat Province. He was warmly welcomed by the commander, officers and men.

After visiting various sections of this division, Soltan Ali Keshtmand took part in a meeting of the men, NCO's and officers of the division. In the course of his comprehensive speech he expressed appreciation for the heroism of the personnel of the Herat 17th Division in crushing the counterrevolutionaries and restoring security in the area. He drew their attention to the formidable and crucial revolutionary duties for the defense of the homeland and revolution, and he wished them further victories in the accomplishment of their sacred duties.

At the end of their visit to the Herat 17th Division the chairman of the Council of Ministers and his accompanying delegation inspected a museum of weapons which were seized from counter-revolutionary bands during the recent successful operations carried out by the men and officers of the Armed Forces.

The BAKHTAR correspondent adds that Soltan Ali Keshtmand and his accompanying delegation later returned to Kabul.

Iranian Border Incidents 'Strongly' Protested
LD151912 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 15 Nov 85

[Text] The Iranian charge d'affaires in Kabul was summoned yesterday to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the following statement was made to him by the second political section:

In accordance with the report by relevant DRA authorities on 13 Aqrab 1364, corresponding to 4 November 1985, from 2000-2200 hours, mortar fire from Shershari post inside the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran was opened on the DRA border post in Shershari region, 132 km southwest of Herat. Ten mortar mines exploded near the post and this aggressive action resulted in two Afghan military personnel being martyred and another two injured; fragments from mines with Iranian marks were found in the area of the explosion. Moreover, on 18 Aqrab, corresponding to 9 November 1985, from 1730-1830 hours reactive shells were intensively fired on the DRA border post in the Kamana residential area 144 km northwest of Herat. Seventeen explosions occurred near the post which resulted in three DRA border guards being martyred and another two injured.

As a result of simultaneous fire from Iranian Air Force helicopters flying over the Iranian post, aggressive operations were carried out in airspace 1 km from the Afghan border.

These aggressive attacks continue the previous aggressions dated 3-4 Aqrab 1364 [25-26 October 1985] by Iranian authorities against the DRA territory in Shershari region as well as the aggressive operations by this country's authorities on Kamani. This indicates that despite all efforts by the DRA to normalize events on the common borders between both countries and despite repeated formal objections, the Iranian stand, as before, remains negative; as a result, the Iranian border force has continued their attack against the border forces and carried out aggressions against DRA territory.

Naturally, the irresponsible and uncontrolled activities by the Iranian border command have brought about further cause for reget by the DRA. Iranian authorities not only provide all-round assistance to Afghan counterrevolutionary bands, but also reserve areas for stationing the bands and their equipment and allow the bands, without the slightest restriction, to cross state borders to carry out subversive actions in DRA territory.

Therefore, the DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly protests these hostile and aggressive actions which are contrary to internal laws, the principles of good-neighborliness, and credible protocol on borders. Their continuation and repetition produce nothing but tension. The DRA seriously asks the responsible authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran to uncover the perpetrators of the aggressive incidents and punish them.

Moreover, it is strictly pointed out to the government authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran that the repetition and continuation of such aggressions will bring about undesirable consequences to relations between the two neighboring countries, the responsibility for which rests directly on the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

BAKHTAR on Successes Against Counterrevolutionaries

LD161920 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 16 Nov 85

[Text] A BAKHTAR correspondent, quoting a responsible source of the country's security forces, reports that as a result of successful operations by the country's security forces in the area surrounding Dahana-e Ghori subdistrict, 16 counterrevolutionary elements were crushed and 1 recoilless rifle, 1 mortar, 6 DShK's, 4 machine guns, 71 assorted weapons, 36 rockets, 72 surface-to-surface rockets, 164 mortar mines, 170,000 rounds of (?DShK) ammunition, 10,000 rounds of ammunition, 15 rocket launcher shells, 33 anti-personnel mines, 20 kg of explosive substance, 2 hand grenades, 1 communications radio, 330 meters of fuse, and 1 gas mask were seized by the alert security forces of the country. Also, as a result of these operations, 4 enemy ammunition and arms depots, 16 foodstuffs depots, and one hideout have been destroyed and some antistate propaganda documents and papers which prove the links of the mercenary and sold-out bands with abroad were also seized by the security forces.

According to another report, as a result of a successful operation by the country's security forces in Balabolok and Golestan district, Farah Province, 15 counterrevolutionaries were crushed and 22 of them were captured. One DShK, 1 mortar, 1 recoilless rifle, 1 ZK-1, 1 heavy machine gun, 33 assorted weapons, (?36) Italian mines, 5,000 rounds of DShK ammunition, 2,000 Kalashnikov rounds and 1 vehicle came into the hands of the security forces from these criminals.

Also as a result of these operations, a number of antistate documents and papers were seized by security organs.

Similarly, as a result of an operation carried out in the village of Islamabad, Qala-e Kah district, six vehicle loads of arms and ammunition of the enemy along with another two vehicles loaded with 150 surface-to-surface rockets were destroyed in the area surrounding Anardara district, Farah Province.

Clandestine Reports Coup Attempt Against Karmal

GF151812 (Clandestine) Voice of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Dari 1700 GMT 15 Nov 85

[Text] A coup d'etat was planned against Karmal by a group of [word indistinct] officials in [words indistinct]. As this coup d'etat was not acceptable to the criminal master USSR, it was discovered and a group of people were arrested in connection with it.

Gandhi Denies Providing Arms to Tamil Militants

BK151631 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 15 Nov 85

[Excerpts] The prime minister today made an aerial survey of the flood-affected areas of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. Our Madras correspondent, P. Perumal, reports.

[Begin recording] Mr Rajiv Gandhi left for an aerial survey of the flood-affected areas of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. Ministers and senior officials accompanied him. On return to the airport the prime minister held discussions with the chief minister, ministers and high ranking officers. [end recording]

Referring to the Sri Lanka issue, the prime minister said the Tamil militants have not given any basic suggestion for discussion with the Sri Lankan Government for a solution to the ethnic issue. The Sri Lankan Government, he said, has given a paper on the issue. Mr Gandhi said the union government is only trying to bring the two sides to the negotiating table. He denied that the government is providing arms to the Tamil militants. Later, the prime minister arrived in Bangalore.

Indonesia's Suharto Meets Gandhi, Leaves for Home

BK160922 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 16 Nov 85

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the Indonesian president, Mr Suharto, had wide-ranging discussions on bilateral, regional and international issues in New Delhi today. The talks were held when the Indonesian president made a brief stopover at New Delhi airport this morning on his way back home after attending the FAO meeting in Rome. The visit was at the invitation of the prime minister, Mr Gandhi. The two leaders met for nearly 90 minutes.

Later, briefing newsmen, an official spokesman said that the talks were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. President Suharto spoke of the developments in Asian region, neighboring countries, and Cambodia. Mr Gandhi referred to the forthcoming South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation summit meeting, disarmament, and the Geneva talks. They also discussed matters concerning the Nonaligned Movement, of which both India and Indonesia are founder members. Both leaders also agreed to improve bilateral cooperation through exchange of visits and expressed their desire to further strengthen economic cooperation.

Mr and Mrs Suharto later left for home. They were seen off at the airport by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, Mrs Sonia Gandhi, and some of his cabinet colleagues.

Gandhi Leaves for Oman National Day Celebrations

BK171313 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 17 Nov 85

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, left New Delhi this evening for Muscat to attend the 15th National Day celebrations of the Sultanate of Oman. He is accompanied among others by the minister of state for power, Mr Arif Mohammad Khan, and the foreign Secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari. He was seen off at the airport by his cabinet colleagues, members of parliament and top officials.

'Arafat To Meet With Gandhi in New Delhi 18 Nov

BK161606 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 16 Nov 85

[Text] The chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Mr Yasir 'Arafat, is expected to arrive in New Delhi on Monday [18 November] on a short visit. During his stay in the capital, he will meet the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

Pakistani Finance Minister Meets With Officials

BK151615 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1330 GMT 15 Nov 85

[Text] A 3-member Pakistani delegation led by its minister for finance and planning, Dr Mahbubul Haq, today called on the minister for planning and also the deputy chairman and other members of the Planning Commission in New Delhi. They are reported to have discussed matters pertaining to strengthening of trade and economic relation between India and Pakistan. The Pakistani minister also held discussions with senior officers of the Planning Commission and apprised them of the planning process in Pakistan.

Trade Agreement Reached

HK160030 Hong Kong AFP in English 0021 GMT 16 Nov 85

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 15 (AFP) — India and Pakistan today agreed to open up bilateral private sector trade.

An official spokesman said that an understanding to this effect was reached between visiting Pakistani Finance, Economic Affairs and Planning Minister Mahbubul and Indian Commerce Minister, Arjun Singh here today.

The two ministers agreed that Indo-Pakistan trade should be expanded to "a reasonable level with the objective of bringing it within a non-discriminatory framework", the spokesman said.

He said the ways to achieve these objectives were under discussions. The meeting between the commerce secretaries of the two countries would continue tomorrow.

Haq 'Satisfied' With Talks

BK161635 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 16 Nov 85

[Text] India and Pakistan have evinced keenness to set up joint ventures in free trade zones as a first step to expand industrial and trade relations. Discussions on these matters were held when Pakistan's minister for finance, planning and economic affairs, Dr Mahbubul Haq, called on the finance minister, Mr Vish-

wanath Pratap Singh, in New Delhi today. Both sides agreed on the need to increase trade between the two countries.

Mr Singh called for higher levels of trade for which modalities would be worked out by the officials. He also responded positively to the suggestion for launching a South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation airline to enable the people of this region to interact freely on economic and social levels.

Talking to newsmen, Mr Haq said he is returning home extremely satisfied with the discussions. He was encouraged by the environment of goodwill. Referring to his meeting with Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Pakistani minister said he was greatly impressed by Mr Gandhi's vision and direction. Replying to questions, Mr Haq said there is a sense of a new beginning in both the countries.

Bangladesh Minister on Water Sharing Issue
BK171559 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 17 Nov 85

[Text] The Bangladesh irrigation and water development minister, Mr Anisul Islam Mahmud, has said that his country is keen on finding a comprehensive solution to the river water problems with India. Mr Mahmud, heading a 7-member delegation, arrived in Calcutta today from Dhaka on his way to New Delhi to take part in the Indo-Bangla talks on the Ganga water issue beginning tomorrow.

Mr Mahmud told newsmen at Calcutta Airport that the solution should be based on the recent talks between the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the Bangladesh president, General Ershad, at Nassau.

Mr Mahmud also said Bangladesh desires closer cooperation with India. The talks are likely to cover an arrangement on sharing the Ganga flow at Farakka and ways to augment it. The 2-year agreement between the two countries expired last year.

Vice President Returns From East European Visit
BK130934 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 13 Nov 85

[Text] Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, and the German Democratic Republic have expressed their keen desire to strengthen economic and trade relations with India.

This was stated by the vice president on his return to New Delhi this morning from his 3-nation tour. Mr Venkataraman said he had useful exchange of views on global issues and matters of mutual interest. Mr Venkataraman said the leaders of the East European countries he met are genuinely interested in preserving peace in Europe.

There is an apprehension among them of a possible nuclear war and its disastrous consequences. They feel unless the world opinion asserts itself there is a real danger to peace, he added.

Assam Accord Bill Introduced in Lok Sabha
BK180938 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 18 Nov 85

[Text] A bill introduced in the Lok Sabha today seeks to provide that people detected as foreigners in Assam and who would lose their right to vote for 10 years will continue to enjoy the rights of Indian citizens during this period. These rights will include the right to obtain a passport. The bill which seeks to amend the citizenship act is meant to give effect to the Assam accord. Under the accord people of Indian origin who came from Bangladesh between 1 January 1966 and 25 March 1971 and who have been living in Assam ever since would be disenfranchised for 10 years from the day they are detected to be foreigners. At the end of this period they will be deemed to be citizens of India for all purposes. The bill says that a person will be considered to be of Indian origin if he or either of his parents or any of his grandparents was born in undivided India.

Referring to those people of Indian origin who came to Assam from Bangladesh before 1 January 1966 and who have been living in Assam since then, the bill says they will be deemed to be Indian citizens from January 1966. They will include people whose names were included in the electoral rolls for the general elections to the Lok Sabha held in 1967.

The bill was introduced by the home minister, Mr S.B. Chavan. Members belonging to the CPI-M, CPI, and the Muslim League opposed its introduction. Their argument was that it violates the Constitution because it visualizes two categories of citizens — one with voting rights and the other without. A Muslim League member alleged that the bill as well as the Assam accord amounted to a betrayal of the rights of the minority. The home minister said in his reply that the Law Ministry had been consulted and he did not think that the bill in any way violated the Constitution or any law.

Enriched Uranium Deposits Found in Karnataka
BK171401 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1330 GMT 17 Nov 85

[Text] Studies have revealed the presence of enriched uranium in vicinity of the Kolar gold fields in Karnataka in south India. According to chemists of the Indian Institute of Science, the study indicated the presence of unusually uranium enriched lead isotopes. The studies are being conducted in collaboration with the Soviet Union.

HINDUSTAN TIMES on Relationship With Bangladesh
BK150203 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English
7 Nov 85 p 9

[Shyamali Ghosh article: "India-Bangladesh Relations"]

[Text] Beginning with somewhat euphoric cordiality in 1971, India-Bangladesh relations acquired a firm footing in the Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation signed in 1972 for a period of 25 years. There have, however, been ups and downs in the relations since then. There are problems of various dimensions

which have so far thwarted a steady growth of healthy and mutually beneficial friendly relationship between these two neighbours. One stumbling block that seems to have compounded the difficulties is Bangladesh's "small neighbour" psyche. This factor regrettably plays a critical role in India-Bangladesh relations.

Bangladesh's perceived threat because of India's pre-eminence in the region has forced her into a laboured search for wider and rather out of proportion extraregional linkages. Some Bangladeshis would explain this away as an effort to live in concord with but distinct from her "powerful" neighbour. In a bid to overcome her weakness Bangladesh at times appears to have been adopting a role that would give her the leverage of nuisance value vis-a-vis India. To this attitudinal bias must be added her eroded manoeuvrability as a peripheral partner of the world capitalist system partly by choice and partly due to over dependence on foreign aid for sheer economic survival.

Bearing such contextual limitations in mind, visits in recent months by the Indian foreign secretary and a special emissary of the Indian prime minister plus Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit during the June floods and other timely gestures (termed by a section of the Bangladesh media as "flood diplomacy") indicate India's keenness to sort out the problems and strengthen her ties with Bangladesh.

The most loaded discordant issue in India-Bangladesh relations, the sharing of the Ganga waters during the dry season, has always loomed large in the background even during the heyday of cordiality. The roles of the anti-India lobby in various sections of Bangladesh society, notably the so-called rightists and ultra-leftists, the Pakistani trained elements in the bureaucracy and other opportunists have greatly aggravated the difficulties in finding a lasting solution. The initial experimental accord reached in 1974 was questioned by the 1975-August coup military and quasi-military regimes in Bangladesh. Giving in, the Janata government of India in 1977 entered into a new five-year agreement which was more acceptable to Bangladesh. On its expiry in October 1982 India and Bangladesh signed a Memorandum of Understanding maintaining the status quo. And this remains valid till the elusive permanent solution is arrived at and acted upon. Towards that end a Joint River Commission [JRC] initially proposed in 1974 has been set up despite Bangladesh's efforts at one stage to internationalise and then multilateralise the issue. In 1977 Bangladesh tried in vain to effectively raise it in the United Nations, and later side-tracked the revived Indian proposal for a Ganga-Brahmaputra link canal through Bangladesh with a counter proposal to build reservoirs in Nepal. Thus the Bangladeshi apprehension or plain distrust of her "powerful" neighbour has kept her from seeking a solution of a problem which according to her own claim has more adverse effect on her than on the "big" neighbour. Thus this apparently vital issue is either not so critical intrinsically or the advantages of keeping it alive somehow has a pay off effect in spite of the alleged hardship caused by the impasse.

The Joint River Commission, understandably, has yet to evolve anything concrete. A slight headway, however, appears to have been made through the recently reported decision that henceforward the JRC would try to evolve joint formulae instead of submitting unilateral proposals to each other. A saner approach at the official level is thus indicated. Nevertheless, a suggestion made editorially in a premier Bangladesh daily that India should shift the Calcutta port further seaward and abandon the Farakka Barrage to solve the problem in favour of Bangladesh reveals the utter insensibility of certain sections of Bangladesh public opinion vis-a-vis India. Obviously, the Bangladesh Government needs to be genuinely and strongly desirous of reaching an accord if such irrational thinking is to be overcome. How serious Gen Ershad's government is in this regard is still a matter of speculation.

More intriguing is the question: The nature of his government being what it is whether he will be able to carry such leaders of public opinion with him. A point of reference is the furore created over a suggestion made during the Zia regime for India-Bangladesh collaboration for optimum utilisation of latter's natural gas reserves. Very recent remarks by Bangladeshi officials do not reflect any appreciable change in Bangladesh's behaviour pattern.

Another knotty issue in India-Bangladesh relations is the ownership of the New Moore Island in the Bay of Bengal. Believed to have been formed following the 1970 cyclone, it lies within the territorial waters of India. India duly notified the fact in 1971. Bangladesh claimed her right in 1978 and called it the South Talpatty Island. Following Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai's visit to Bangladesh the same year it was claimed that he had agreed to a joint survey by both governments to determine the ownership. The post-Janata Government of India, however, has disowned any such understanding since there was no scope for any doubt regarding the de jure position. Whether Bangladesh really believes in her own claim or not, there is no doubt that the "issue" has helped in fomenting Pakistani type Indophobia to cover up internal discontent.

In 1981 when President Gen Ziaur Rehman had himself admitted that he was sitting on a live volcano that could erupt any time the Government of Bangladesh widely publicised an alleged "Indian encroachment upon Bangladesh territory" when an Indian naval survey ship was enchored in New Moore Island. It even sent gunboats to the area. Consequently an Indian frigate was sent to assist the Indian ship. Open conflict was averted for this could not have been on the Bangladesh agenda. But the timing of the allegation coinciding with the return of Sheikh Hasina Wazed from India left no doubt that the island is yet another issue — a convenient tool for arousing anti-India sentiments as and when required by the Bangladesh Government to manipulate internal political dynamics.

Bangladesh's official response to the fencing issue again shows her oversensitiveness. The claim that after the return of the 1971 refugees no Bangladeshi has illegally entered and stayed back in India is quite unrealistic.

If overstretched, this attitude will not only cast a dark shadow on intergovernmental relations but is bound to embitter the people to people relations which so far have remained cordial. An adversary relationship at this level may not prove as conducive in the long run as it may appear to those hoping to fish in troubled waters.

Smuggling across the border is another irritant. This has become almost an institutionalised practice over the decades since 1947. Even in 1971 when the Muktibahini was fighting against the Pakistani Army two-way smuggling of consumer goods was being carried on along some parts of the border areas. In recent years emergence of a neo-rich class in Bangladesh has given a fillip to this unauthorised trade practice. Bangladesh tries to give the impression that Indians are the only beneficiaries, forgetting that in such illegal profit-making enterprises it cannot be a one-sided game. Gold is being smuggled into Bangladesh to be passed on to India. Narcotics smuggling is there and some amount of arms smuggling also cannot be ruled out. It is high time that both the governments evolve joint methods to curb such menacingly anti-social goods smuggling even if they cannot check movements of all items because of sheer physical impossibility.

If this is not done what is basically a domestic problem will continue to impinge on their relations. Similar is the issue of allegations regarding asylum and help to the Mizo insurgents by Bangladesh and the same to the Chittagong Hill Tracts' Tribal insurgents by India.

Unless each government can settle these essentially domestic problems of national integration, suspicions are bound to be entertained by both sides.

The Bangladesh foreign minister's remarks that all India-Bangladesh bilateral issues now under negotiation are marked by "forward movements" is encouraging. But Bangladesh's interpretation of bilaterality of issues may differ from India's, thus adding to the latter's discomfiture and putting a drag on India's search for regional peace.

Further Reportage on Visit of Turkish President

Evren Urges Islamic Unity

TA151701 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish
1100 GMT 15 Nov 85

[Excerpt] President Kenan Evren has declared that the Islamic world must always act with a spirit of solidarity in matters that affect it, and follow the principle that unity generates strength. Evren, who is continuing his contacts in Pakistan's capital, Islamabad, this morning attended a special session of the parliament, where he delivered a speech.

In his speech, Evren expressed pleasure over being the first visiting president to address the Pakistani parliament. Pointing out that relations between the two countries derive their strength from feelings of deep respect, love, and admiration between the Turkish and Pakistani nations, Evren said that therefore the continuation of close contacts between Turkish and Pakistani parliamentarians, who represent the people, will constitute an important link in our existing excellent relations.

The president remarked that both countries have reached the stage where they enjoy international prestige and their friendship is sought, after surmounting great obstacles and difficulties. He noted that Turkey experienced such difficulties before 12 September 1980. Evren added: The Turkish Armed Forces, which had to seize power on this date in line with our nation's desire, established an atmosphere of security and tranquillity within the framework of plans and programs. The Turkish Armed Forces then proceeded to build a solid and healthy democracy; they returned to their barracks after implementing the necessary legal arrangements, especially the Constitution. Turkey thus regained the democracy which it had chosen and acknowledged as its way of life in the years following the establishment of the Republic and which suits it best. This is why Turkey is following with interest Pakistan's comprehensive work to solve its problems individually and to complete the restoration of its suspended democracy. We wish our Pakistani brothers, who deserve the best and most beautiful of everything, success in this regard.

Stating that parliaments assume very important tasks in the establishment and continuation of parliamentary regimes, Evren said that in a way parliaments reflect the functioning of regimes.

The president recalled that both Turkey and Pakistan pursue a peaceful policy in the world as well as in their region, and expressed concern over certain international conflicts and wars. He continued: We believe that in view of this situation, the Islamic world must act in unity and solidarity more than ever, since an Islamic world acting in unity and solidarity can play a much more effective role on all issues and subjects that closely concern it, such as the plight of the Muslim people in Afghanistan and the campaign of terror and oppression directed against the Muslim Turkish minority in Bulgaria. The principle that unity generates strength must always be taken into consideration.

In conclusion, Evren stressed that the contribution of the Pakistani nation to the liberation struggle won under the leadership of Ataturk will never be forgotten, adding that the Pakistani attitude will always be remembered with appreciation and thanks. Evren concluded his statement by saying: Long live Pakistan, and long live Turkish-Pakistani friendship.

Leaves for Oman

BK160526 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu
0500 GMT 16 Nov 85

[Text] Turkish President Kenan Evren was given a very warm send-off when he left Lahore for Oman this morning at the end of his 3-day state visit. President Mohammad Ziaul Haq bid him farewell. Among those present to see him off were Punjab Governor Ghulam Jilani Khan, provincial Chief Minister Nawab Sharif, provincial ministers, and high civil and military officials.

Press Release Issued

TA160835 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish
0530 GMT 16 Nov 85

[Text] President Kenan Evren concluded his official contacts in Pakistan and left the country this morning. He will go to Jordan where he will meet King Husayn and then he will return to Turkey.

A press release has been issued in connection with President Evren's visit to Pakistan. The statement says that President Evren and Pakistani Presdient Ziaul Haq held official talks on bilateral relations and all aspects of international and regional problems. The two presidents observed that their stands on the issues discussed are in full harmony. They expressed their pleasure over the development of bilateral relations based on traditional ties and confirmed their determination to further expand and strengthen their cooperation.

The press release says: The two presidents expressed their pleasure over the sincere efforts exerted to bring about this (?visit) aimed at raising the level of bilateral commercial and economic relations to the high level of the fraternal ties between the two countries and over the agreements and contracts concluded with a view to undertaking joint investments in various fields such as communications equipment, electronics, actomobile parts production, engineering, and drug industry.

The two presidents were pleased about the signing of an agreement which will prevent double taxation and expressed the hope that this agreement will be a source of encouragement for the further development of economic cooperation.

The two presidents also expressed their pleasure about the recently signed 1985-1988 cultural exchange program and protocol under which Pakistan will send teachers of English and other courses to Turkey. Expressing their great pleasure over the establishment of the Economic Cooperation Organization between Turkey, Pakistan, and Iran the two presidents said they hoped the organization will further advance the existing cooperation among the member countries.

The press release says that Presidents Evren and Ziaul Haq expressed their concern about the danger caused by the Iran-Iraq war for regional peace and stability. The two presidents

expressed support for the Islamic Peace Committee's efforts to end the war as soon as possible.

The press release says that in reviewing the situation in Afghanistan, the two presidents agreed that only through negotiations can a solution be reached whereby the foreign troops will withdraw from Afghanistan, the Afghan people will be granted the right to elect their own government, and the Afghan refugees will be able to return to their countries of their own free will, honorably and safely.

On the Middle East question, the two presidents confirmed their opinion that for a just, comprehensive, and lasting solution, Israel must withdraw from all the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, and the Palestinian people must be resotored all their inalienable rights, including their right of self-determination and their right of establishing their own independent state.

The press release says that President Evren briefed President Ziaul Haq on the latest developments in Cyprus, the oppression of the Muslim Turkish minority in Bulgaria and the Turkish-Greek relations. The press release says: The Pakistani president confirmed Pakistan's support of the Turkish stand that only through direct negotiations to be held between the Turkish and Greek Cypriot communities can an urgent and peaceful solution, acceptable to all sides, be reached for the establishment of an independent, sovereign, bizonal, and bicommunal federal republic. The Turkish president told President Ziaul Haq of the pressure campaign being carried out in Bulgaria to forcibly change the names and identities of the Turks there and to prevent them from carrying out their religious duties. The Pakistani president shared Turkey's deep concern about the matter and expressed the hope that the problem can be resolved speedily through dialogue and negotiations between Turkey and Bulgaria.

The Turkish president told President Ziaul Haq of the current situation in Turkish-Greek relations and of the bilateral problems as well as the efforts being exerted by Turkey to reach a fair and just solution through a dialogue and direct negotiations. He told President Ziaul Haq that Turkey has not yet received a positive response from Greece in connection with these efforts. The Pakistani president supported Turkey's view that these problems should be resolved justly through negotiations.

The press release says that President Evren invited President Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo to Turkey and that the invitation was accepted.

President Evren will return to Turkey after holding a meeting with Jordan's King Husayn in Aqaba. President Evren and his delegation are expected back in Ankara this afternoon.

Joint Statement Issued

BK161128 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1005 GMT 16 Nov 85

[Text] Pakistan and Turkey have reiterated their determination for further strengthening and expanding bilateral cooperation. This was stated in a joint statement issued at the end of the 3-day state visit of President Kenan Evren of Turkey to Pakistan today.

The two countries affirmed their determination to further improve commercial and economic ties and expressed their satisfaction over the sincere endeavors being made to achieve this objective. They noted the agreements concluded and contracts under way to set up joint ventures in various fields. The two countries also expressed happiness over the recent signing of a bilateral cultural exchange program under which Pakistan would provide teachers of English and other subjects for Turkish schools.

Reviewing the present situation in Afghanistan, the two leaders agreed that it could be solved only through a negotiated political settlement based on the principles laid down in the relevant resolutions of the UN General Assembly and the Organization of Islamic Conference. The Turkish president supported Pakistan's efforts to normalize relations with India. President Mohammad Ziaul Haq expressed support to the Turkish view on the Cyprus question, repressive campaign against the Turkish Muslim minority in Bulgaria, and the present state of the Turko-Greek relations.

President Kenan Evren extended invitation to the president and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo to visit Turkey, which was accepted.

The distinguished guest was given a warm send-off in Lahore this morning when he left for Oman. He was seen off, among others, by the president; the Punjab governor, Lt General Ghulam Jilani Khan; the chief minister, Mr Nawaz Sharif; provincial ministers; and senior civil and military officials.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq says friendship and cooperation between Pakistan and Turkey will not only serve the interests of the two countries but also promote peace and security in this region. He was talking to the Turkish media team traveling with President Kenan Evren in Lahore last night. He said the visit had brought Pakistan and Turkey still closer, widened the scope of cooperation, and deepened friendship between the two countries.

About his talks with the Turkish leader, he said the two sides also reviewed international relations. Their discussions showed an identity of perception, since both were desirous of preserving peace.

The president declared that Pakistan was firmly against nuclear proliferation and had supported all moves to make South Asia a nuclear-free zone. It believed that nuclear energy must only be utilized for peaceful purposes.

Pakistan wanted that it should not be singled out in the matters of nuclear energy in a discriminatory manner. The president said after a great effort Pakistan has been successful in convincing the western world that nuclear issue was a regional problem and should be tackled as such.

Ziaul Haq Speaks With Turkish Journalists

TA160800 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish
2100 GMT 15 Nov 85

[Text] Pakistani President Ziaul Haq has said that if necessary, Pakistan can recognize the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus [TRNC] tomorrow. The Turkish Radio and Television crew in Pakistan reports that Ziaul Haq replied to questions by Turkish journalists in Lahore this evening. Replying to a question, Ziaul Haq said that TRNC President Rauf Denktas is his friend and that even if Pakistan does not officially recognize the TRNC, it supports that country at all forums including the United Nations.

Ziaul Haq said that the Bulgarian ambassador broke the rules of diplomacy when he walked out of the dinner Ziaul gave in honor of President Kenan Evren last night. The Pakistani president said that the incident would not be viewed favorably.

Ziaul Haq said that his country is determined to use nuclear energy for peaceful ends, to solve its energy problems.

On the question of Afghan refugees, Ziaul said that almost all Islamic countries are helping them, but that Turkey's efforts in this field cannot be praised enough.

Comments on Evren Visit

BK161601 Karachi Domestic Service
in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Nov 85

[Excerpts] Pakistan and Turkey have reiterated their determination to further strengthen and expand bilateral cooperation in the trade and economic fields. In a joint statement issued at the end of the Turkish president's visit to Pakistan, they expressed satisfaction at the sincere efforts being made to achieve this objective.

After the departure of the Turkish president, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq told newsmen that Kenan Evren's visit will further strengthen relations beteween the two countries in economic, cultural, and other fields. The Turkish president, he said, had himself raised the issue of trade imbalance existing between the two countries and, hence, it was agreed to set up a committee to examine the issue of removing the bilateral trade imbalance. A Pakistani delegation will soon visit Turkey to discuss the issue. Another issue that came up for discussion related to the increase in shipping facilities to boost trade between the two countries.

About the Soviet leader Gorbachev's statement that there will be no compromise on the Afghanistan issue during his meeting with President Reagan, President Zia said this statement should be analyzed properly.

Ziaul Haq Departs for Oman Coronation Anniversary

BK170627 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0600 GMT 17 Nov 85

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq left Islamabad for Muscat a short while ago to participate in the 15th anniversary celebrations of the accession of Sultan Qabus to the throne of Oman. The president was seen off at the airport by Senate Chairman Ghulam Ishaq Khan, federal ministers, senators, members of national and provincial assemblies, senior civil and military officials, and members of the diplomatic corps. It is expected that the president will meet with the leaders of various delegations participating in these celebrations.

Acting Officials Named

BK171059 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1005 GMT 17 Nov 85

[Text] The chairman of the Senate, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, will be the acting president during the president's visit abroad [to Oman], while Admiral Tariq Kamal Khan will be the acting chief martial law administrator.

Junejo Meets Sri Lankan Trade Minister 14 Nov

BK141054 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1005 GMT 14 Nov 85

[Text] The visiting Sri Lankan trade minister, Mr Amarasiri, called on the prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, in Rawalpindi today. They discussed matters relating to the future expansion of the existing good relations between the two countries. Earlier, talking to newsmen on arrival in Islamabad the Sri Lankan minister said future prospects of close relationship between Pakistan and Sri Lanka are very bright. He said the two countries were not only two good neighbors but also good friends.

Junejo Departs for Beijing 17 Nov; Hails PRC Ties

BK170532 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 17 Nov 85

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo left Islamabad for Beijing this morning on a week-long visit to China. Speaking to newsmen, he said that this is his first official visit since becoming prime minister. He said relations between Pakistan and China are extremely friendly and cordial, and his current visit will prove beneficial to both countries. He called relations between Pakistan and China exemplary and said his talks with the Chinese leaders will be held in the light of friendship and goodwill.

When asked whether he will hold talks with the Chinese leaders on the Afghan problem as well, he said there will be exchanges of views on the [words indistinct] serious situation in Afghanistan. In reply to another question, the prime minister said the objective of his talks with the Chinese leaders will be further to promote economic cooperation between the two countries [words indistinct].

At the airport to see the prime minister off were Senate Chairman Ghulam Ishaq Khan, federal ministers, members of the Senate and national and provincial assemblies, senior civil and military officials, and members of diplomatic corps.

During his stay in China, the prime minister will hold talks with the Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang on matters of mutual interest and on international issues. The prime minister will call on

President Li Xiannian. The Chinese premier will host a banquet in honor of Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo.

In Beijing, the prime minister will lay floral wreaths on the tombs of [words indistinct]. The prime minister will visit the Pakistani Embassy in Beijing. He will inaugurate the new building of the Pakistani school and will address a gathering of Pakistanis.

XINHUA Interview Cited

BK170412 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Nov 85

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has said the key to the solution to the Afghan problem is not in Kabul but in Moscow. In a special interview with XINHUA, he explained Pakistan's stand on various international matters including Afghanistan, Pakistan-India relations, and the Iran-Iraq war. He said Pakistan believes in a political settlement to the Afghan crisis based on (?UN resolutions and the Vienna convention).

Referring to Pakistan-India relations, the prime minister said that Pakistan is marching toward a foreign policy based on peace [words indistinct]. He termed as fruitful and constructive the recent (?contacts) between India and Pakistan. He said positive results have emerged from the second meeting of the Indo-Pakistan joint commissions and mutual contacts between the peoples of the two countries will be encouraged. He expressed the hope that the spirit of goodwill and understanding between the two countries will help in establishing good-neighborly and tension-free relations.

Referring to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, he said during the past 5 years considerable progress has been made in this region.

On the Iran-Iraq war, he said Pakistan is making every possible effort to end this conflict.

Indian 'Propaganda' on Nuclear Capability Viewed

GF171502 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 8 Nov 85 p 3

[Editorial: "Nail the Lies"]

[Excerpts] Mr Zain Noorani, the minister of state for foreign affairs, has said that the propaganda against Pakistan is being used as a smoke screen for increasing its [India's] own nuclear capability and that it has accumulated large quantities of plutonium which can be used to manufacture nuclear arms. He was speaking at a National Assembly session and answering the questions of members regarding the malicious propaganda which Mr Rajiv Gandhi continues to carry on against Pakistan and which was much in evidence in his recent UN trip, when he alleged in an interview with the U.S. press that Pakistan is aiding and abetting the Sikhs.

Mr Zain Noorani refuted the Indian Government's allegations and accusations regarding aiding the Sikhs, calling them baseless. He said India has not been able to present any evidence on Pakistan's nuclear program. Regarding the Indian prime minister's accusations, he referred to Pakistani proposals and efforts for mutual supervision of nuclear installations and to keep the Indo-Pakistan subcontinent a nuclear-free region.

Despite the propaganda by Indian and Western circles regarding Pakistan's nuclear program and President Ziaul Haq's speech at the UN General Assembly reaffirming that Pakistan does not have the intention of nor the capability to manufacture nuclear weapons, and that our sole objective is to obtain nuclear knowledge for the sake of energy — instead of hailing and lauding President Ziaul Haq's frankness and pacifism, Indian Prime Minister Gandhi attributed certain quotes to President Reagan, saying that "he should halt Pakistan's nuclear program if it reaches a point at which it is not possible to turn back." Official U.S. sources immediately refuted these utterances. Mr Gandhi has refrained from repeating it since, but he has not decreased the tempo of his anti-Pakistan campaign.

It is heartening to note that Mr Zain Noorani has not contented himself with merely clarifying our stance, but has also pointed out in detail the dangerous repercussions of India's nuclear program. The need of the hour is that this should be repeatedly proclaimed at every forum and at every juncture. There should be no hesitation in making the world aware of facts. This has become imperative in view of the fact that Indian parliament members and former judges, retired generals, and prominent journalists stated in a joint statement that "whether there is a nuclear bomb in South Asia depends on the Indian Government's decision" when the Indian leaders are claiming that Pakistan is instigating it to manufacture a nuclear bomb! The statement by prominent Indians points to the basic reality which Pakistan should expose to the whole world. We should not labor under the delusion that the Indian leaders will cease their litany against Pakistan or halt their false and baseless propaganda, but at least the facts presented in the statement by prominent Indians should be brought to the world's attention, and the "liar should be nailed."

HAIDAR Urges Direct Talks With Afghanistan

GF161340 Rawalpindi HAIDAR in Urdu 4 Nov 85 p 3

[Editorial: "Kabul-Moscow Pressure in Afghanistan"]

[Excerpts] According to BBC reports, the Kabul administration has given large quantities of Soviet-made Kalashnikovs to anti-Pakistani tribesmen free of charge. These tribesmen are headed by Khan Abdul Wali Khan of Kukikhel, who has stated in an interview that "as long as the United States and Pakistan continue to provide arms to the tribesmen who are in their favor, we will continue to get arms from Kabul." VOA has also stated — based on reports obtained from the tribal areas — that the Kabul administration is providing Soviet arms to combat those mujahidin who are entering Afghanistan.

If the BCC and VOA reports are true, then it can be deduced that in an attempt to exert greater pressure on Pakistan, the pro-Soviet administration is concentrating its attention on tribal areas and it seems to have succeeded in finding some among them who are willing to prevent the entry of those who attempt to go into Afghanistan to fight.

In light of the BCC and VOA reports, it can be said that a phase to exert more pressure on Pakistan has begun and the initial success of the Kabul administration is apparent in Wali Khan's recent utterances, that is, that arms will continue to be brought from Kabul if Pakistan and the United States continue to provide arms to their protagonist tribesmen. We consider his statement tantamount to a declaration of loyalty to the Afghan Government and opposing Pakistan's current policy on Afghanistan.

If the opposition were from only one tribal leader, we would not have expressed so much apprehension. In recent weeks there have been reports that the Karmal administration has held tribal jergahs [conclaves] to condemn Pakistan's policy on Afghanistan in which quite a few of our tribal leaders participated.

Since these reports were not refuted by the Pakistan Government, we are forced to believe that Kabul's influence is increasing in tribal areas. Perhaps this is why those political elements already critical of Pakistan's Afghanistan policy are increasing their clamor for a compromise with Afghanistan. We also endorse their demand and hope that unreal expectations are not placed on the next round of indirect talks in Geneva and that the advantage of direct talks should be acknowledged.

We should admit that there has been a change in Afghanistan and we should not lose time. The hand of friendship and cooperation should be extended toward our nearest neighbor. If this suggestion is not accepted, then the activities of the tribes may be escalated and the subversive activities of the Kabul agents, such as the recent bomb explosions in Peshawar, may become more frequent. Our fear is confirmed by the Soviet foreign minister's announcement that no bargaining will take place on the issue of Afghanistan in the upcoming Reagan-Gorbachev talks. The real implication of this seems that at present the Soviet Union is not prepared to heed any demand for withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

When the Soviet Union insists on keeping its troops in Afghanistan and when there seems no way to dislocate the troops by guerrilla tactics, it would be appropriate for Pakistan to revise its stance so that the Kabul administration and its patron the Soviet Union would also adopt a positive attitude, instead of exerting pressure on Pakistan.

Therefore we would like to suggest direct talks with Afghanistan, especially since the political leaders of Pakistan are also insisting on it and the Kabul administration has likewise said that there is hope for a solution in the event of direct talks. Our government's logic is that since it does not recognize the government, direct talks cannot be considered. There does not seem to be much weight in the government's attitude, especially when Afghan consulates are functioning in various cities in Pakistan and an Afghan charge d'affaires is posted in Islamabad. This in itself is contradictory to our government's stance. It behooves the government to change its attitude in the interest of the country's security and stability and to reassess our priorities with a view toward ending the Afghanistan problem.

BANGLADESH

Trade Talks With Bulgaria Begin 16 Nov

BK161624 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Nov 85

[Text] Formal trade talks between Bangladesh and Bulgaria began in Dhaka today. The Bulgarian side is being led by the first deputy minister of foreign trade, Mr Georgi N. Vutev, while the Bangladesh team by Commerce Secretary A.B.M. Ghulam Mustafa. The leader of the Bangladesh delegation emphasized the need for further expansion and diversification of trade between the two countries. The Bulgarian minister expressed satisfaction over the steady growth of commercial and economic relations with Bangladesh. Two working groups have been formed to identify the steps for removing the bottlenecks in the way of boosting trade between the two countries.

Bomb Kills 1, Wounds 2 on Outskirts of Dhaka

HK170606 Hong Kong AFP in English 0546 GMT 17 Nov 85

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 17 (AFP) — A boy was killed and two other children were injured in a bomb attack here yesterday, police said.

Police said that a handmade bomb exploded near the childrens' home last night on the outskirts of Dhaka.

A two-and-a-half-year-old boy was killed outright in the blast, while two children were taken to hospital. It was not known how serious their injuries were.

Police said they did not know who was responsible for the attack or what the reasons were.

NEPAL

Foreign Minister Leaves for Muscat Celebrations

BK161524 Katmandu External Service in English 1445 GMT 16 Nov 85

[Text] Health Minister Rudra Prasad Giri will look after the affairs of Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Education and Culture in the absence of Minister for Foreign Affairs and Education and Culture Randhir Subba who has gone to Muscat, the capital of Oman, to attend the 15th national day celebrations of that country. This was stated in a notice issued today by the (?personal assistant) to secretariat of His Majesty the King.

SRI LANKA

Security Minister, India's Gandhi To Meet in Oman

NC161042 Paris AFP in English 1028 GMT 16 Nov 85

[Excerpt] National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE today that he and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi would hold talks on resolving Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict when they meet in Muscat next week during Oman's national day celebrations.

Mr Athulathmudali, who is heading Sri Lanka's delegation to the celebrations, leaves early tomorrow for the Omani capital.

He said he and Mr Gandhi would discuss the ethnic crisis and whether a meeting between Mr Gandhi and Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene was necessary before the two leaders meet in Dhaka during the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit in early December.

Mr Athulathmudali is also expexcted to brief Mr Gandhi and Indian Foreign Secretary Romesh Bhandari on what he says are cease-fire violations by militant Tamil separatist groups.

The Indian side, which has held a series of discussions with south India-based Tamil separatist groups, is expected to put forward ideas for ending the guerrilla war on the basis of views expressed by the separatists, diplomatic sources told AFP.

India's thinking contained in another "working paper" was conveyed to the Sri Lankan Government by Sri Lanka's High Commissioner in New Delhi Bernard Tilekaratne, who met with Mr Jayewardene and Mr Athulathmudali in Colombo last week.

Some of the militants rejected the first working paper prepared by Sri Lankan and Indian officials after the collapse of peace talks between Colombo and the separatists in Bhutan in August.

The militants are holding out for greater autonomy in the Tamil areas than envisaged in the original working paper and are insisting on the amalgamation of the northern and eastern provinces into a single region.

Jayewardene, Gandhi Meeting Unlikely

HK180746 Hong Kong AFP in English 0205 GMT 18 Nov 85

[Text] Colombo, Nov 18 (AFP) — Soldiers carrying out a cordon and search operation in the northern province shot dead two people, including a woman schoolteacher, security sources said today.

They said yesterday's shooting in Kilinochchi occurred after the two people apparently panicked and ran on seeing the troops, which opened fire.

Other reports from Kilinochchi said three people, including a young boy, were killed. But these reports were not immediately confirmed.

Sixteen suspected militant Tamil separatists detained during the search operation were taken to the northern capital Jaffna for investigations, security sources said.

A total of 1,305 persons including 318 security personnel, 17 politicians and 58 police informants were killed by Tamil separatists in the 10 years ended in mid-November, according to a Defense Ministry count.

The number of civilians killed jumped from 255 last year to 639 this year, while soldiers killed went from 26 last year to 86 this year, the Defense Ministry, cited by the state-run news agency, said.

The news agency, however, did not say how many militants or civilians were killed by security forces during the period.

Some separatist groups have accused the security forces of having killed about 800 civilians since a cease-fire in June.

A section of Sri Lanka's 2.5 million Tamil minority have been waging a bloody campaign for a separate state in the north and east of the country, alleging discrimination by the Sinhala majority.

Meanwhile, Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi are unlikely to meet before the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit in Dhaka next month, well-informed sources told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

There has been widespread speculation here that the two leaders would meet, possibly in New Delhi, before the SAARC summit to discuss Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict and plans for a negotiated solution.

But the sources said that the two leaders would discuss the ethnic issue in Dhaka and that Colombo saw no need for a separate meeting.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali is expected to hold talks with Mr Gandhi today in Oman, where they are attending that country's national day celebrations.

These talks are expected to deal with Indian moves to bring Tamil separatist groups and the Colombo government together for a third round of peace talks and Sri Lanka's concern about cease-fire violations by some militant groups and the killing of security personnel.

Government Presents Budget, Urges Peace Talks
HK131552 Hong Kong AFP in English 1547 GMT 13 Nov 85

[Text] Colombo, Nov 13 (AFP) — The Sri Lankan Government presented its annual budget in Parliament today, warning Tamil separatists that it was ready for war if they refused to talk peace.

Presenting the budget, Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel said that if the separatists wanted peace "let it be peace. If it is war then let it be war."

He did not mention the Tamil separatists directly but referred to violence in the north and east, where a section of the country's 2.5 million Tamils want to set up an independent state.

"If we fail to achieve peace, let me state quite categorically that we as a government are prepared for a military solution.

"We have no doubt whatsoever that we are fully equal to the task and that our people will back us to the hilt," the minister said amid cheers from government benches.

"Can we allow a whole country and a whole nation to be destroyed to satisfy the aspirations of a few?" he said. "Tremendous achievements on the economic front" would be nullified if peace was not pursued, he said.

"Time is short, so a delay would be fatal," he said.

Mr de Mel said his budget included an overall deficit of almost 27 billion rupees (one billion dollars) and was due mainly to heavy defence and security spending in the coming calender year.

Defence spending and interest payments on the public debt accounted for 518 million dollars or 35 per cent of current calculations.

He said foreigners were still interested in investing in Sri Lanka and that the Foreign Investment Advisory Committee had approved 38 projects in the first 10 months of this year while the Free Trade Zone Authority had approved 11 projects.

He pushed up the prices of local liquor and locally manufactured foreign spirits and jacked up the price of cigarettes. He also increased railway fares and postal and telegraph charges and doubled the airport departure tax to meet the deficit.

To encourage exports and boost tea, the country's main export earner, he reduced the export duties on all varieties of tea in a bid to generate local resources for a rehabilitation of the plantation sector.

Mr De Mel also relaxed personal income tax in keeping with trends in other countries and removed estate duty and gift tax while retaining the wealth tax.

The minister said he would finance the deficit with foreign grants amounting to 134 million dollars, foreign project and commodity loans totalling 433.6 million dollars and domestic rupee loans amounting to 432 million. An unfinanced gap of 79.4 million dollars is to be met with borrowings from the banking sector.

'Marxist Terrorists' Rob Minister's Home 15 Nov
BK171054 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 17 Nov 85

[Text] Armed Marxist terrorists raided the residence of Home Minister K.W. Devanayagam in the eastern province and robbed goods worth over 50,000 rupees on Friday [15 November]. Security sources told LANKA PUWATH last night that 10 to 15 armed terrorists had entered Mr Devanayagam's home at Eravur, Trincomalee, ab ut 1930 on Friday night and robbed paddy, a television set and a video deck. Another security report received last night says the terrorists abducted and murdered a Tamil youth in Batticaloa on Friday. The Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students, EROS, claimed responsibility for the killing.

4 Policemen Killed, 2 Injured in Landmine Blast

BK161307 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 16 Nov 85

[Text] Four policemen were killed and two others seriously injured by a Marxist-terrorist landmine at Batticaloa this morning. Security sources told LANKA PUWATH that the blast occurred when a convoy of three police vehicles was on its way to investigate a lamp post murder at (Bah) Road in Batticaloa town. The lead vehicle was hit by the terrorist landmine, killing a subinspector and three other constables and seriously injuring two other constables. The injured policemen have been flown to Colombo for emergency treatment.

Clash Ensues, 9 Killed

HK170906 Hong Kong AFP in English 0855 GMT 17 Nov 85

[Text] Colombo, Nov 17 (AFP) — At least nine people were killed when police investigating a landmine blast clashed with Tamil militants in the eastern port city of Batticaloa yesterday, informed sources and residents said.

Several houses and shops were also set ablaze following the explosion yesterday which killed four policemen and seriously injured two others, official sources said.

Reports conflicted on the identify of the shootout victims.

The mainly government-owned *SUNDAY OBSERVER* said that the police unit visiting the site of the landmine blast had encountered a group of militants, and in the "shootout that followed, nine terrorists were shot dead."

Security sources said that Tamil militants were killed, while reports reaching here from Batticaloa said that police commandos had rounded up some young people and shot them.

The independent publication *WEEKEND* said that the police had killed four militants when they opened fire after the explosion, while another independent newspaper, *ISLAND*, said that two civilians who were at the scene of the blast were also killed in the crossfire. In all, nine bodies had been received at the morgue at Batticaloa Hospital, informed sources said, bringing the death toll in yesterday's incidents to at least 13.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE (AFP) that he had heard that the policemen had been killed, but said he did not know about the fires.

At least 15 houses and shops were set ablaze, according to residents who alleged that policemen taking revenge for the landmine blast were responsible. The committee monitoring the second cease-fire between security forces and the militants, some of whom have been waging a bloody campaign for a separate Tamil state in Sri Lanka's north and east, has asked the security forces for details of yesterday's incidents in Batticaloa, informed sources told AFP.

Mr Athulathmudali is scheduled to meet with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in Oman next week to discuss the current situation in Sri Lanka and the alleged violations of the second cease-fire by some Tamil militant groups.

Mr Athulathmudali was to leave today for Muscat, where both he and Mr Gandhi are to attend the Oman national day celebrations.

Tamils Say Government Forces Killed 77 Civilians

HK150717 Hong Kong AFP in English 0640 GMT 15 Nov 85

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 15 (AFP) — Sri Lankan security forces killed at least 77 Tamil civilians in three operations this week, a Tamil separatist group based on south India said today.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) news agency quoting the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in Madras said that 48 Tamils died when Sri Lankan Air Force helicopters dropped "lethal bombs" on Tamil villages in Tricomalee Monday and Tuesday.

At least 14 Tamils were killed when police commandos went on a "rampage" in Batticaloa town yesterday, the LTTE press release said.

The third operation took place in Muthur earlier this week, where 15 Tamils were reported killed.

A section of Sri Lanka's 2.5 million Tamils are campaigning for independence for Tamil dominated areas in north and east Sri Lanka.

Charges Denied

HK170154 Hong Kong AFP in English 0114 GMT 17 Nov 85

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 17 (AFP) — The Sri Lankan High Commission here last night denied charges by a Tamil militant organisation that Sri Lankan security forces had recently massacred civilians in some villages of Trincomalee, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reported.

In a press statement, the High Commission said, however, that the Sri Lankan Government had carried out operations in "jungle hideouts of terrorists."

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in a recent press release said that 77 Tamils had been killed in Trincomalee.

PTI quoted the High Commission statement as describing the LTTE allegation as a "highly exaggerated and disturbed version of operations carried out by security forces."

Khomeyni Receives Basij Volunteer Forces at Qom

LD161317 Tehran IRNA in English 1257 GMT 16 Nov 85

[Text] Tehran, nov. 16, IRNA — Leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeyni received a group of Basij volunteer forces from Qom, at Jamaran Mosque, Saturday. At the meeting, the volunteer forces announced their readiness to be despatched to the fronts of the Iraqi-imposed war and for the continuation of the defensive war until the final victory.

At the end of the meeting the imam responded to the enthusiasm of the visitors.

Clandestine on Soviet Envoy's Meeting With Khomeyni

GF161746 (Clandestine) Voice of the Liberation of Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Nov 85

[Text] The Soviet ambassador in Tehran met Ruhollah Khomeyni and thanked him for his intervention in the release of the Soviet hostages in Lebanon. The *L'EXPRESS* magazine, which cites this report, adds that the Soviet envoy has promised the Tehran mullahs that his government will not only resume purchasing gas from Iran, but will also resume sending military experts there and will even give the country modern armaments.

Musavi Says Summit Against Third World Interests

LD171848 Tehran IRNA in English 1803 GMT 17 Nov 85

[Text] Tehran, Nov 17. IRNA — Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi Sunday described the forthcoming negotiations between Washington and Moscow as destined to be against the interests of the Third World countries and reminded "the Islamic Republic condemns such meetings between the Eastern and Western exploiters of other nations whose intention it is to hatch conspiracies against others throughout the globe."

Speaking in the cabinet session, Musavi analyzed the purpose and the motives of the U.S. president and the Soviet head of state and the implications of their scheduled meeting noting that "these meetings are highly dreaded by the dependent countries of the Third World because they are held to bargain on the fate of those countries falling within the respective spheres of the superpower's interests."

Musavi added that the Islamic system of government in Iran is founded on the basis of the dictates of Islam and relies on the support of an entire nation of Muslim people.

He said as such the Islamic Republic does not depend on either of the superpowers. "The decisions to be taken in such conferences" said Musavi, "will not change the course being treaded by the Islamic Republic."

The premier also said that the negotiations are not likely to have any effect on the regional situation since Iran has a determining role in the region. "We invite all the world's nations to follow our example," said the prime minister.

On the 1986 budget bill the premier said that the government would try its level best to submit next year's budget bill to the Majlis (Islamic Consultative Assembly) well in advance.

Musavi Interviewed on Budget, Geneva Summit

LD180807 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Nov 85

[Excerpts] The cabinet held a session this morning in the presence of Mr Khamene'i, the president. Various internal issues and the latest regional political developments were discussed and subjected to exchanges of views. Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister, gave an interview to our correspondent after this session and elaborated on the most important points raised. He commented on next year's budget and the forthcoming meeting between the leaders of the Eastern and Western superpowers in Geneva. We draw your attention to this interview:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, after elaborating on the important issues discussed at the meeting, would you please tell us about the latest developments in connection with the 1365 [1986] budget which you mentioned in previous meetings?

[Musavi] In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful. This session was in part graced with the president's presence. Budget issues, which are the most important issues under discussion at the cabinet at present were raised. Of course in view of other developments such as the change in the government and the appointment of a new one, other issues including the budget discussions were to some extent neglected. Fortunately, however, with the efforts of all organs and that of the government we will be able to submit the budget bill to the Majlis on time. If we manage to achieve this, it will demonstrate the hard work of our brothers in various departments. Up to now we have made good progress. Today, we discussed incomes and setting income levels. We try to set the expenditure of departments, in spite of their enormous ability to work, in accordance with incomes and realistically to prevent any problems cropping up later on. Notes to be attached to the bill are nearly finished. The budget ceiling for eight or nine ministries has been set and the rest will be determined soon.

[Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, in view of your comments about the budget, would you please tell us what the priorities and distinctions in the 1365 budget?

[Musavi] These specifications have been mentioned in the budget circular issued by the previous government last summer. We have not added anything to that. What is being stressed now is the fact that expenditures have to be cut as much as possible and we must economize. We will have a budget deficit after maximum efforts to economize but it will be realistic and we will not have to borrow heavily from banks. These are points that are being taken into consideration. Of course, as I mentioned at the beginning, [word indistinct] are very powerful as far as their executive power is concerned. But, in view of our income ceilings, we are forced to economize in this respect as well. One important point which is mentioned in the budget and may not have been elaborated on previously is that more use will be made of banking sources.

We are debating about allocating 20 million tomans [1 toman equals 10 rials] of the budget for development projects from banking sources. That is to say, development projects which have strong economic justification can enter into special arrangements with banks according to Islamic (?laws) and make use of bank loans. Naturally, such projects will be healthier than others which have their roots in the previous regime and will have a more healthy economic aspect to them.

[Correspondent] As you are aware, the heads of the two American and Soviet superpowers are to meet in Geneva toward the end of the next week in order to discuss various issues. What is your view and assessment of this meeting?

[Musavi] Usually subservient governments of Third World countries place great importance on such meetings. Various important world issues within the spheres of these superpowers' interests are bargained over. That is why governments that are subservient to one or the other always fear that they might be bargained over and be subjected to pressures in the new arrangements or even be eliminated. The Islamic Republic regime is one based on the [word indistinct] and Islamic belief which relies on the people. It does not rely on either of these superpowers. Naturally, (?jealousies) which can affect the outcome of such conferences will not influence the future of our Islamic Revolution nor the will of our people to achieve the aims mentioned in the slogans of the Islamic Revolution. What is important is that main world issues should be discussed at these negotiations. As far as we are concerned, we condemn such negotiations which exclude the nations and contravene the interests of nations. We cannot agree with such dealings. We invite all nations of the world to follow our lead. That is to say we urge them to establish systems relying on popular forces, national forces and on the basis of spiritual and divine belief in such a way that would not allow a group of bully boys and oppressors to get together, make decisions about them, impose sanctions against them, or put them under pressure. This is our position in connection with such negotiations. We do not believe that these discussions will have any effect on the regional issues since we are the main and determining factor and not the superpowers.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

Musavi Issues Circular on Karbala Convoys

LD181037 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Nov 85

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that a circular has been issued by Prime Minister Musavi in connection with the preparations for the mobilization and equipping of Karbala convoys. According to this circular, all state institutions are to agree to dispatch volunteer employees and work forces in accordance with the cabinet's approved codes.

In addition, the state institutions are ordered to make the required facilities for publicity, mobilization of forces and transportation needed by the Karbala convoys available to the officers responsible.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Gives Friday Prayers Sermon

LD151838 Tehran IRNA in English 1144 GMT 15 Nov 85

[Text] Tehran, Nov 15 IRNA — Temporary leader of Friday mass prayers in Tehran, Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told a large audience of Muslim worshippers at the compounds of the Tehran university and nearby streets that the Islamic Republic is determined to retaliate [against] desperate Iraqi attacks on Iran's industrial points.

"Although we do not want destruction of Iraqi plants, yet with the continuation of Saddam's vicious acts, we have instructed our troops to hit all (Iraqi) factories within their artillery fire range and air raid others, at a retaliatory level," the Majlis speaker said to the Iranian worshippers who supported his statements with shouts of "Allah-o-akbar" (God is great).

The prayers leader pointed out that it was not the Islamic Republic's missiles nor its warplanes which had wearied the Baghdad regime in its aggressive war against Iran. "We rather get our strength from Islam and the Koran," he said.

Pointing to the presence at the Friday prayers ceremony of a large group of volunteer forces from the holy city of Qom who have formed a "towards Karbala'" group and who later departed Tehran for the battlefronts after the prayers, Rafsanjani described the move as an "interesting initiative" which he said would disappoint the enemy.

The Majlis speaker who is also Imam Khomeyni's representative at the Supreme Defense Council (SDC), made an analysis of the present situation in the region with particular emphasis on the Islamic Revolution of Iran. He said the Islamic Revolution has its own thesis and has at the same time a message for the world. Therefore, he added, it was natural for the power-wielders to confine this revolution to a single land.

Referring to the idea by a certain U.S. official that the Soviets must fear the Islamic Revolution, the Friday prayers leader said it was a right assumption for two reasons. First, he said, one third of the USSR's population are Muslims, and secondly because the Iranian revolution has exposed the Soviet Union in its slogan that it supports the Third World countries.

He also agreed with the judgement that if the Islamic Republic wins the Iraqi imposed war, the interests of the West would be jeopardized in the region and in the world.

"We regard Western interests in the region as illegitimate and (we) are at the same time a threat to the ideological interests of the East, because they (the East) lie in their claim that they support the oppressed. They are now collaborating with the U.S., Saudi Arabia, Jordan, France, Egypt, and others, in Iraq..."

Further on Friday Prayers

LD151853 Tehran IRNA in English 1624 GMT 15 Nov 85

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 15, IRNA — Majlis speaker and substitute leader of the Friday mass prayers of Tehran Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Friday that as result of the

achievements of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, Marxist theorists and among them Cuba's Fidel Castro, have been gradually reviewing their academic outlooks on religion and abandoning their judgement of religion as an "opium of the mases". He quoted Castro as saying in his book that religion, too, could serve as a revolutionary drive for the masses.

Rafsanjani who was talking to a multitudinous group of worshippers during his sermons at the Friday congregational prayers at the compounds of Tehran University said that due to the accomplishments of the Islamic Revolution and to Iran's successful coping with the imposed war and U.S.-led economic sanctions the foreign countries were gradually becoming a little more realistic in dealing with the Islamic Revolution.

Elsewhere in his sermons the Majlis speaker said that rather than disrepute the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic government, the run-away counterrevolutionaries abroad had, by their very behaviour and because of their undisciplined conduct in fact brought infamy upon themselves and thereby as though helped observers learn about the very phenomena which they (the counterrevolutionaries) have opposed.

The Majlis speaker said for a long time since the culmination of the Islamic Revolution, American analysts contended that Iran was shifting towards communism and towards the Soviets. "But", he quoted Nixon as saying in a recent issue of the *FOREIGN AFFAIRS* magazine that "the Soviets should now rightly feel worry because of the Islamic Revolution." Rafsanjani said Nixon was right in his warning to the Soviets for two reasons: Firstly because one-third of the Soviet population are Muslims, and secondly because the Islamic Revolution with its lofty ideals has vividly overshadowed the Marxist ideology and has proved as being more appealing to the masses in general...

Elsewhere in his sermons to Muslim worshippers here Friday, Rafsanjani said that the Islamic Republic does not see any reason why the West should have any interest at all in the region. He said also that at the same time the Islamic government is a threat to the "ideological interests" of the Eastern bloc. "Why? because they (the West and East) are not sincere in their claims of being concerned about the oppressed masses. Even today they the Soviets) are aiders and abettors with Washington, France, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, etc (in the war crimes committed by the Baghdad regime)."

Rafsanjani said the Western countries and especially Britain and the United States have recently launched out fresh efforts for Islamic studies, trying to exploit Islamic scholarship for the interests of their governments, but he said that the religion forming the moral and intellectual foundation of Iran's Muslim combatants is one thing and the Islam represented by lecturers in seminars in those countries is another.

Talking on the Iraq-Iran war, Rafsanjani said that defeated in the battlefronts, the Baghdad regime now is trying to fight an economic war with Iran damaging industrial areas in the country and disrupting the normal operation of the country's economy. He said as much as Saddam had succeeded in his goals of occupying the Islamic Republic, so, too, he will succeed in his economic war with Iran.

The substitute leader of the Friday prayers said the Islamic Republic hates to pound non-military targets in Iraq in retaliation for Iraq's attacks on civilain and industrial areas in Iran, but noted that as long as the Baghdad regime is doing it, the Iranian forces will have no option but to retaliate.

Rafsanjani said that the massive demonstrations in support for a continued resistance against the Iraqi regime at all costs by some 30 million Iranians throughout the country on Al-Quds Day (June 14th) had served to thwart foreign conspiracies against the Islamic Revolution and also demonstrated the futility of Baghdad's aerial attacks upon towns and cities in Iran.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets With Australian Envoy

LD172229 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 17 Nov 85

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 17, IRNA — Australian ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran John-Leslie Lander met here Sunday with Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and solicited Iran's views on the U.N. Security Council regarding this country's periodical presidency of the council.

In the meeting, Lander said that as long as Australia is a member of the council it would seek truthfully to reflect Iran's views in the world body.

In response, Rafsanjani said that Iran expects Australia as the head of the council to defend international principles.

He also briefed Mr Lander on the war crimes of Iraq during its imposed war, citing its numerous instances of violations of international conventions. Rafsanjani told the Australian ambassador that "Iran continues the war, despite its exorbitant cost because it has a duty to ensure that the international principles are respected."

The Security Council does not defend the oppressed but supports the oppressive powers, said Rafsanjani. It is natural for Iran not to have confidence in such a body which has never taken a positive step in its interest.

Majlis speaker emphasized that the council should adopt a realistic position and at least condemn the violation of the international law by the Iraqi regime.

Rafsanjani also expressed his satisfaction on expansion of relations between the two countries saying "there is no impediment to prevent them from expanding further relations."

Velayati Departs for Tour of Syria, Libya, Algeria

Pre-Departure Statement

LD161107 Tehran IRNA in English 1045 GMT 16 Nov 85

[Text] Tehran, Nov 16, IRNA — Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here Saturday that the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes positive steps recently taken by the countries of the southern Persian Gulf region. Furthermore, he added that Iran will be responsive to friendly gestures.

Velayati, speaking before his departure for a tour of Syria, Libya and Algeria Saturday morning, said that the objective of the visit was to further strengthen ties among the four countries and expand Iran's relations with those states.

Referring to Syria, Libya and Algeria as the combatants of the front line of the anti-Zionist struggle, the foreign minister said that importance of the Palestinian issue and problems of the Muslims in the region, necessitated further contacts among them.

Referring to a recent change in the stance of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council members, he said that Iran has constantly sought peaceful coexistence and friendly relations with its neighbours. Since the PGCC member states, in addition to being Iran's neighbours are Muslims, Iran has a stronger feeling towards them.

Reiterating the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy of reciprocal respect and non-interference in the affairs of others, Velayati said that some countries which used to support Iraq in its war against Iran, are now convinced that Iran is sincere in its desire to have friendly relations with its neighbours. Whereas, he added, the Iraqi regime is awaiting an opportune moment to strike against them.

Stressing that Iran welcomes friendly measures, Velayati reiterated Iran's firm determination to confront any hostile move by any country.

Velayati is carrying messages from President 'Ali Khamene'i for the heads of the three states.

Interviewed at Airport

LD161254 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Nov 85

[Text] The foreign affairs minister, Mr Velayati, heading a political delegation, left for Syria, Libya, and Algeria this morning in order to submit a written message of President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i to the leaders of these three countries and to hold talks with these countries' authorities. At the airport, Mr Velayati was seen off by officials of the Foreign Affairs Ministry and the diplomatic representatives of Syria, Libya, and Algeria in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Before departing, Mr Velayati was interviewed in Tehran by a correspondent of the Central News Unit, to which we draw your attention:

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Velayati, would you please explain the purpose of your trip to Syria, Libya, and Algeria?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The very close relationship between Iran, Syria, Libya and Algeria makes it necessary to meet our friends in these countries at short intervals in order to exchange views on issues of interest. In view of the developments in the past few weeks, it is necessary to hold talks on these grounds. In addition, the ever-increasing conspiracies of our common enemies in the world and in the region also intensifies the need for such contacts. Since the start of the Islamic Revolution, we have continued and strengthened our relations with the Frontline States, struggling against Zionism, thanks be to God. We hope that through our contacts, which take place in order to secure closer ties among these countries, we would be able to reach some positive conclusions, and so far this has been the case. That is, during our meetings in the capitals of the said countries and in any opportunity at international circles, whether the meetings are on a bilateral, trilateral or multilateral basis, we have brought our views closer to one another. In view of the fact that our enemies and the enemies of our sacred aspirations are always cooperating to confront us, it intensifies the need for ever-increasing cooperation and closer links among those countries which have never conceded to any compromise with Zionism in the region. [end recording]

On the new stance of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council and the response of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr Velayati said: We are always in favor of friendly relations and good-neighborliness with our neighbors. As for the GCC members, in addition to neighborliness, being Muslims and having common cultural and historical links with these countries constitutes another factor for our becoming closer with them. On this basis, right from the start of the Islamic Republic of Iran's establishment, our policy with these countries has been on the basis of good-neighborliness, mutual respect, and the policy of refraining from interference in one another's internal affairs. Some of them in the past, however, and particularly in the course of the imposed war, have supported the aggressive Iraqi Government.

However, the passage of time proved to them that the Islamic Republic of Iran is genuine in its intentions to have friendly relations with its neighbors, whereas the regime ruling over Iraq seizes every opportunity to deliver blows upon them, he said.

The foreign affairs minister added: As a whole, we welcome the positive steps recently taken by the Persian Gulf southern littoral states and we have shown that we shall always respond positively to other countries' friendly measures. Armed with firm determination, we are standing up against any hostile action that may emanate from any country whatsoever.

Further on Visit

For reportage on Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akhbar Velayati's arrival and visit in Syria, please see the Syria section of the 18 November Middle East & Africa *DAILY REPORT*.

Oil Minister Inspects Ahvaz Installations

GF161511 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 16 Nov 85

[Text] Mr Aqazadeh, our country's oil minister, who, accompanied by two of his aids, is currently on a visit to Ahvaz to inspect the Khuzestan Province oil installations, attended a meeting of prominent officials of the oil-rich southern districts. During this meeting, Mr Tavalla'i, the director of the oil-rich southern districts, submitted a report on the performance, activities, and scale of oil and gas production in the oil-rich south during the course of his speech.

During his address, he said: Despite the problems created by the war, with the divine blessings and grace, and with the unceasing efforts of each dedicated employee of this industry, we have been able to continue our oil exports. According to this report, the oil minister, Mr Aqazadeh then elaborated on the policies and plans of the Oil Ministry and alluded to the fact that the oil installations are operated by dedicated experts of the Islamic Republic. He said: The enemies of Islam were of the opinion that we were incapable of handling such a complicated and economically important industry, but with divine succor and assistance, now a large part of this oil industry is functioning due to the sincere efforts of the dedicated and expert personnel of the Islamic Republic. The oil minister expressed hope that the day would come when the Iranian petroleum industry experts, employees, and engineers would be able to effectively and commendably assist the Third World countries in the expertise and production of this industry.

Our correspondent reports that the oil minister and his companions inspected the oil installations in the oil-rich Khuzestan region yesterday. Earlier, on Thursday night, he visited the Ahvaz Friday imam and the imam's deputy, Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi-Jazayeri, in the company of the governor-general of Khuzestan Mr Jannati.

Talks on Sudanese POW's in Iran Open
LD172337 Tehran IRNA in English 1822 GMT 17 Nov 85

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 17, IRNA — A Sudanese delegation headed by Director General of Sudan's Foreign Ministry Mustafa Hasan Ahmad arrived here Sunday to hold talks with Iranian officials for the release of Sudanese POW's in Iran.

The delegation is carrying a message from Sudanese foreign minister for his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati. The former regime of Sudan under Ja'afar Numayri had deceived poor Sudanese youths to join the Iraqi war against Iran. A number of Sudanese soldiers have fallen captive to Iran's Muslim combatants in various operations throughout the fronts. The new government of Sudan has adopted a policy of neutrality in the Iraq-Iran war.

The issue of the Sudanese POW's was brought up for discussion during the visit to Khartoum last August by Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam.

Hasan Ahmad said his delegation was the first Sudanese group to visit Iran after the fall of Ja'afar Numayri upon the "humanistic actions" of the Islamic Republic for freeing Sudanese POW's. He added that the aim of the delegation was not only to secure the release of the POW's, but to hold talks for strengthening relations.

The delegations which includes the head of the Sudanese Red Crescent, Sadeq Abdulqader, was welcome at Tehran Mehrabad airport by a group of the officials of the Islamic Republic.

Iran's Foreign Ministry director general in charge of Asia and the Pacific, Ali Ahani, was among the welcoming group.

Ahani told reporters that Sudan is an important country among the Muslim, Arab and African nations with a distinguished record of anti colonialistic struggle. He said in the wake of Numayri's ouster the Islamic Republic can develop close relations with Sudan.

"Important changes have taken place in the foreign policy of this country (Sudan) which has announced a neutral stand towards the imposed Iraqi war," he said. Ahani expressed hope that the recent developments in relations between the two countries would serve to strengthen relations between the two Muslim nations.

Majlis Delegation Departs for Nicaragua
LD172336 Tehran IRNA in English 1831 GMT 17 Nov 85

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 17, IRNA — A Majlis (Islamic Consultative Assembly) delegation left here Sunday for Nicaragua at the invitation of Nicaragua's parliament. The delegation is headed by chief of the Majlis Foreign Policy Commission Ahmad Azizi.

Delegate Leaves for OPEC Fund Talks in Vienna
LD180942 Tehran IRNA in English 0817 GMT 18 Nov 85

[Text] Tehran, Nov 18, IRNA — The acting minister of economic and financial affairs, Nasser Sherafat, left here for Vienna Monday at the head of an economic delegation to participate in the 34th session of the board of directors of the OPEC Fund. The two-day session will start work in Vienna, Tuesday.

Prior to his departure, Sherafat told IRNA that granting credits to Bangladesh, the Republic of Central Africa, Dominica, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Senegal and Sudan and financial aid to UNESCO will be topics for discussion in the session.

According to Sherafat [words indistinct] will study and approve OPEC's budget for 1986. It will also determine resources through which the fund finances its credits and aids to be granted in 1986. The session will also make necessary arrangements to hold the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the fund to be held together with the ministerial session in 1986.

Lebanese Shi'ite Leader Comments on Damascus Talks
LD170048 Tehran IRNA in English 1845 GMT 16 Nov 85

["Shi'ite Parliamentarian Skeptical of Peace Talks' Success" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Beirut, Nov. 16, IRNA — Lebanon's vice-chairman of the Supreme Shi'ite Assembly Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din said Saturday that the current negotiations between Amal, the Phalangists and Druze forces would lead nowhere. Shaykh Shams al-Din said that the Phalangists are only trying to secure their power through such a plan and that the Muslims would not gain anything from any agreement with them. "The participants in the Damascus talks are not representatives of the Lebanese people" the Shaykh said, "therefore," continued he "they cannot decide for the people".

The vice chairman noted, "We fully support the Syrian effort for ending the war in Lebanon, but it lies with the people to determine their own future".

He also said that both the East and West aim to destroy the Islamic culture in the country.

Lebanon's Fadlallah Urges Anti-Zionist Union

LD160725 Tehran IRNA in English 0718 GMT 16 Nov 85

[Text] Beirut, Nov. 16, IRNA — Leader of Friday prayers here, Allama Fadlallah stressed that Lebanese resistance forces were ready to cooperate with all forces struggling against the Zionist regime. He also called for an end to the country's militia warfare saying that any peace project which returns tranquility to Lebanon based on campaign against Zionist rule in that country was welcomed.

Fadlallah said that the Lebanese problem in the south was started by the Zionist regime and that any improvement there would only come at the expense of the Zionist regime and the United States.

In his sermons to worshippers in a southern district of Beirut Friday, Fadlallah stressed that national resistance forces were to wipe out Zionist influence from even an inch of Lebanese territory and pave the way for the establishment of a just system of government.

He castigated those who talk about resuming securing negotiations with the Zionist regime, warning that the Zionist regime wants security only for itself in order to perpetuate its expansionist plans. "It does not recognise security for others," he said, "and everyday its aggressions upon southern Lebanon is evident."

He reminded that the Zionist regime intended to annihilate all who opposed its expansionism. Fadhallah said that the surest guarantee for preventing the Zionist and U.S. aggression was with force of arms for Islam.

Joint Staff Command Issues Battle Communiques

No. 2290

LD151528 Tehran IRNA in English 1420 GMT 15 Nov 85

[Text] Tehran, Nov. IRNA — Iranian war planes bombarded an Iraqi cement factory northwest of Sulaymaniyah, at 12:16 hours (08:46 GMT) Friday, inflicting considerable damages on the enemy. All the Iranian planes returned to their bases safely, the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces reported here Friday.

In its Communique Number 2290, the command added that the raid was in retaliation for an Iraqi aerial attack on two industrial units on outskirts of Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province, Thursday at which some civilians were martyred.

The artillery and mortar fire of Iran's Muslim combatants in the northwestern fronts over the past 24 hours inflicted heavy casualties and damage on the enemy, silenced their artillery and disrupted transport of the enemy personnel in the area overlooking Sar Dasht, the communique said.

In the southern fronts, the communique said, the Islamic fighters thwarted a limited assault launched by the Iraqi troops at 02.00 hours Thursday (22.30 GMT Wednesday) in the area between Qasr-e Shirin and Naft-e Shah, inflicting substantial casualties on them.

Another Iraqi infiltration attempt near Nahr Anbar was repulsed, the Iraqis sustaining casualties, the command said.

The city of Abadan in Khuzestan Province was shelled from across the border by the Iraqi artillery Thursday during which some locations in the city were damaged.

Iran's gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions across the Arvand River over the past 24 hours, inflicting considerable casualties and losses on the enemy and curtailing the enemy engineering and combat operations, the communique concluded.

No. 2291

LD161623 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 16 Nov 85

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 16, IRNA — Iran's Muslim combatants heavily pounded Iraqi positions in Eynkhosh, southern fronts, with artillery and other heavy weaponry fire over the past 24 horus, killing or wounding 30 to 40 Iraqi soldiers, destroying seven bunkers, two mortar launchers and one munitions depot of the enemy, the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces reported here Saturday.

In its Communique Number 2291, the command added that the ground and anti-aircraft artillery fire of the Islamic combatants thwarted Iraqi war planes violating the airspace of western fronts, killing or wounding more than 30 Iraqi troops and setting ablaze one munitions depot of Iraqi forces.

Artillery duels between Iranian and Iraqi troops were reported to be heavier in Sumar and Qasr-e Shirin in the western fronts over the past 24 hours, according to the joint staff.

Elsewhere the command said that a number of Iraqi troops were killed or wounded and three heavy and light engineering vehicles of the enemy were demolished during an artillery battle with Iran's Muslim fighters in the northwestern fronts on Friday.

Iranian forces attacked and shelled an Iraqi patrol unit attempting to infiltrate their positions in Nahr-Anbar operational region Friday, inflicting casualties and losses on them and forcing the others to flee, reported the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces.

The city of Abadan in Khuzestan Province was shelled by Iraq's long-range artillery over the past 24 hours during which some houses were destroyed, the communique concluded.

No. 2292
LD171612 Tehran IRNA In English 1600 GMT 17 Nov 85

[Text] Tehran, Nov 17, IRNA — Iranian jet fighters heavily bombarded two Iraqi military and industrial centers 30 km west of Al-Sulaymaniyah, at 07:30 local time (0400 GMT) Sunday, inflicting considerable losses on the enemy. All Iranian war planes returned to their bases safely, the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces reported here Sunday.

In its Communique Number 2292, the command said that the raid was in retaliation for a recent Iraqi aerial on two Iranian industrial units.

The Joint Staff Command further said that Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi positions in the western fronts over the past 24 hours, killed or wounded more than 28 Iraqi troops and demolished one vehicle and nine bunkers of the enemy.

Elsewhere in these fronts, three Iraqi vehicle columns, one in Halabjah with 20 vehicles, another in the area of Kharatha with 15 and the last, around Naft-e Shah were shelled and suffered heavy losses by Iranian artillery fire on Saturday, the communique said. Iranian heavy ground-to-air fire repulsed Iraqi war planes violating the airspace of western fronts over the past 24 hours. Exchange of artillery and other weaponry fire continued in the northwestern fronts being more intense around Sar Dasht over the past 24 hours, reported the Joint Staff Command.

Elsewhere the command said, all flights of Iraqi planes including reconnaissance and aerial photography were thwarted by Iranian anti-aircraft units. Also a number if Iraqi troops were killed or wounded, several bunkers of theirs were destroyed and the enemy artillery was silenced during artillery duels with Iranian gendarmerie forces from across Arvand River Sunday.

A few houses in Abadan were slighlty damaged by Iraq's long-range artillery fire over the past 24 hours, the communique concluded.

Attacks on Iraqi Residential Areas Denied
LD180718 Tehran IRNA in English 0712 GMT 18 Nov 85

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 18, IRNA — A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters here Monday strongly denied Iraqi allegations that Iranian fighter planes were on a mission to bomb residential quarters in Al-Sulaymaniyah, Sunday.

He added that contrary to the claims of the Iraqi war communique no. 2025, Iranian pilots only bombed pre-determined targets, two industrial-military units, 30 km in west of Al-Sulayimaniyah, inflicting heavy damages.

Such contradictory statements are made to delude the extent of the damages caused by the Iranian strike on these crucial centers, the spoksman said.

Iran officially announced bombardment of two Iraqi industrial-military units in west of Al-Sulaymaniyah, which the Iraqi military communique at first totally denied and the justification given was that such units did not exist in "southern Al-Sulaymaniyah".

However, later in its 2025th communique, the Baghdad regime made no mention of the bombardment of southern Al-Sulaymaniyah and instead claimed that the Iranian fighter planes intended to bomb residential areas, he added.

The spokesman also denied Iraq's allegations on the shelling of the port city of Basra and Shahabi region by the Islamic combatants of Iran.

IRGC Urges Citizens To Assist Combatants
LD161137 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Nov 85

[Text] The Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], in a statement expresses gratitude and appreciation to the Muslim and combatant people of Qom who have always led the justice-seeking combat of the Islamic ummah and who, this time, in their strengthening of the battlefronts and with the support of the marchers to Karbala, have turned into the vanguards of the vast and organized presence of all the strata of the people in the battle against the agents of the East and West.

The Central Headquarters of the IRGC has called on compatriots of the rest of the provinces of the country to take inspiration from the valuable utterances and statements of the eminent jurisconsult, the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri and of Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the representative of the imam in the Supreme Defense Council, to emphasize this ardent movment, and to rush to the assistance of the combatants of Islam.

In this connection, all headquarters of the IRGC and the basij of the IRGC throughout the country, while coordinating their work with the respected Friday prayer leaders, will be registering the names of the Hezbollah ummah.

Clandestine Reports Preparations for Offensive
GF180905 (Clandestine) Voice of the Liberation of Iran in Persian 0330 GMT 18 Nov 85

[Text] The legislative bill for a general mobilization for the war with Iraq will be discussed in the Majlis in the coming week.

According to a piece of information we have received over the telephone, the clerical regime is preparing for another wide-spread ground offensive against Iraq.

This bill was discussed earlier in the Friday prayers sermon, where Mullah Hashemi-Rafsanjani prepared the groundwork.

These plans have been rushed through in order to mobilize everyone in the country from 15 to 50 years of age, even students who are busy studying. Khomeyni has approved the plan.

Maltese Tanker Hit by Missile in Gulf

NC161346 Paris AFP in English 1332 GMT 16 Nov 85

[Excerpt] Manama, Nov 16 (AFP) — A Maltese-registered tanker, the 62,416-ton *Koncar*, was hit by a missile early today close to the Iranian port of Bushehr, in the north of the Gulf, shipping sources said here. The incident happened 40 kms (25 miles) southeast of Iran's main oil terminal on Khark Island.

The captain gave no details of damage to his ship, in his distress signal, nor did he say if it was an air or naval attack.

German, Japanese Ships Detained in Persian Gulf

German Ship Held

GF152030 Tehran International Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Nov 85

[Text] A military source has announced that the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran today detained a German ship, the *(Lauracia Gabriel)* in the waters of the Persian Gulf near the Strait of Hormuz. The source added that the 18,500-ton ship carries 21 German and Spanish crew-members. The ship will probably be released following the search and complete inspection of its load. The Islamic Republic of Iran had announced its intention to search ships passing through the Persian Gulf that are suspected of carrying commodities that could raise the combat capability of the Iraqi regime.

Japanese Ship Released

LD161756 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Nov 85

[Text] The Japanese commercial ship *Tokai Maru*, which was going to Dubai, Oman and Kuwait and was seized by the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy, was released once it was clear that it was not carrying military goods for Iraq. It is noteworthy that the Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly announced that goods carried through the Persian Gulf which might serve to strengthen the combat capability of the Iraqi regime will be confiscated.

Voice of Liberation Reports Cholera Outbreak

GF180913 (Clandestine) Voice of the Liberation of Iran in Persian 0330 GMT 18 Nov 85

[Text] According to the correspondent for the Voice of the Liberation of Iran, in the Sistan va Baluchestan area, 170 people in Zabol, 21 people in Zahedan, and 39 people in Nikshahr have died during the past 3 months as a result of the deadly disease cholera. This is according to the province's health offices.

This report indicates that since the patients have to travel via public transportation to other towns in order to seek medical help and medicine, the disease is being spread at an alarming rate to neighboring areas and residential areas.

Government health officials have been ordered not to publish the death figures for cholera victims in this province. The border quarantine in Pakistan has refused to give permission to Iranians to enter Pakistan for the past 3 weeks. According to a doctor in this province, the regime's Health Ministry has so far not informed the WHO of the situation, which is contrary to world international regulations.

Soviet Aircraft Reportedly Bomb DRA Village

LD151751 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 15 Nov 85

[Text] London, Nov. 15 IRNA — Soviet planes have reportedly dropped 14 bombs on Oct. 24 on village (Zalakhan) near subdivisonal headquarter of Bazar-e Panjvai in Qandahar Province, AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS reported Friday. According to AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS sources only one bomb exploded reducing a mosque and four houses to rubbles. It said two women and two children were also martyred.

Earlier the mujahidin destroyed a military jeep by hand grenades killing four 'khad' officials in Qandahar city. On the way back they came across a mobile force and killed two Karmal troops and captured another one, AAP said.

In another report from Qandahar AAP stated, the mujahidin conducted a rocket attack on a military camp in the border town of Spin Buldak on Oct. 27, destroying a wireless unit and killing 8 Soviet-Karmal troops. The same day the mujahidin shelled the town fort, but the losses were not ascertained. A fresh consignment of the Soviet troops was rushed from Qandahar, the report said.

120 Soviet Troops Killed in Failed Operation

LD162201 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Nov 85

[Text] According to a report of the Central News Unit, a division of Soviet special forces stationed in Kabul, supported by dozens of fighter aircraft and an armored division, attacked the positions of the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries in the Behsud region. After 4 days of bloody battle it was forced to completely retreat from this region due to the fierce resistance of the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries. According to this report, in these operations, the joint forces landed paratroopers behind the lines of the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries on three occasions, but this move was defeated. The same report adds that in the course of these operations 120 Soviet troops were killed. Also, 20 Afghan Muslim revolutionaries were martyred.

Rebel, Soviet-Karmal Forces Clash in Nimruz

GF160702 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 16 Nov 85

[Text] In operations last week in the Governorate of Chakhansur in Nimruz Province, Afghan Muslim revolutionaries killed 25 of the enemy joint Afghan Government-occupying forces. Ten of the joint forces were wounded. The Muslim Afghan revolutionaries also destroyed a large amount of arms and ammunition.